TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2015

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VOL. **120** NO. **120**







Photo Illustration by Cassandra Nguyen | the collegian

For students with busy daily schedules, having children is not one of the top priorities. In today's modern society, people have decided to continue on with their education and careers instead of taking on the responsibility of looking after a child.

Modern generations waiting longer to have children, career becomes first priority

By Marija Stambolic THE COLLEGIAN

The institution of family has changed throughout time. In today's world, people are not necessarily taking as much time to think about family.

A 2014 article in the Washington Examiner cites the National Center for Health Statistics in viewing trends in fertility. According to the article, there were only 62.9 births per 1,000 women between the ages of 15-44 in 2013, and the average number of children a woman has during her fertile years is 1.86, the lowest rate in almost 30

After college, finding a job and focusing on a better career does not necessarily allow more space for thinking about having a family. For some women, like Lauren Fillipitch, sophomore in family studies and human services, going to college and having a child is not the most feasible option.

"I think that people are not ready for having kids when they don't feel self-accomplished," Fillipitch said. "Building a family before they are done with their college degrees and before they find a secure job doesn't seem like a right thing to do. Personally, I hope to travel the world and get to know myself better; with kids

those things are not as easy. I feel like it is important to teach ourselves first, before trying to teach a child how to behave."

This phenomena is not just in the U.S., it exists all over the world. Different cultures all over the world are influenced by this growing trend. In Mexico, the birth rate dropped from 23.1 births per 1,000 women in 2000 to 18.8 in 2012. Laura Galvan, senior in food science and industry from Guanajuato, Mexico, said she thinks having kids these days is financially

> CONTINUED ON PAGE 7, "Anti-kid"

From the Little Apple to the Big Apple

By Mara Atzenhoffer THE COLLEGIAN

The K-State Band Wind Ensemble held a concert in which it performed the entire set it will perform at the New York International Music Festival on Monday evening. The wind ensemble will be traveling to New York City, New York, to participate in the Festival, where they will be playing at Carnegie Hall next Tuesday evening.

The pieces the ensemble will be playing are the "Star Spangled Banner" by Smith and Stravinsky, "Bat out of Hell" by Paul Richards, "Danzón No. 2" by Arturo Márquez, "Remember Me" by David Maslanka and "First Suite in E-flat for Military Band" by Gustav Holst.

Once a year the wind ensemble will play a piece that is written for the marching band. Frank Tracz, director of bands, and other collegiate band directors collaborated with an idea for the piece. This year's piece was written by David Maslanka and was inspired by a Holocaust survivor story that was heard at the Nuremberg Trials

"The wind ensemble did a very good job. It was cool to watch people I practice with every day play on this stage and then on a stage of big stature next week," Melissa Sauls, senior in music education, said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3, "ENSEMBLE"



Erica Seago (left), graduate student in music, and **Chelsea White**, senior in applied music, play the flute during the Kansas State University Wind Ensemble's performance of "First Suite in E-flat for Military Band" during the Carnegie Hall Send-Off Concert in All Faiths Chapel on March 30.

Education funding and KPERS dominate Intergovernmental Luncheon topics



Cassandra Nguyen | the collegian

Clancy Holeman, Riley County Counselor, and Trent Armbrust, representative of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce, discuss future impacts.

By Jena Ernsting THE COLLEGIAN

The city of Manhattan's Intergovernmental Luncheon held Monday focused mainly on state government financial allocations

Leah Fliter, president of the USD 383 school board, opened the meeting by introducing the state's school finance plan with the budget cuts and new block grants accounted for after Gov. Sam Brownback's signing.

Robert Shannon, superintendent of Manhattan-Ogden School District 383, explained

the loss of government allocations to the school district. He said the district was initially going to lose \$320,000 but has now been reallocated for supplemental funding; however, some of the money reallocated will be distributed directly to the Kansas Public Employee Retirement System, or KPERS, a fund that the school board cannot spend or budget.

Shannon said that a new budget plan for school finance was produced by Sen. Steve Abrams, R-Kan. Part of Abrams' plan includes looking at the success of students posthigh school graduation.

"Sen. Abrams has been in both local as well as the state board of education ... so we should pay attention to the general ideas the senator has brought forward," Shannon

Following budget talk, conversation veered toward the city of Manhattan, where Assistant City Manager Kiel Mangus spoke about the impact of SB 42, a bill which focuses on public funds for lobbying.

"The city would have to itemize and list every lobbyist they employ," Mangus said. "Not a big deal. And also every national organization association that has a lobbyist that they employ, (which is) a very big deal."

Mangus said that every professional organization the city was a part of would be included in the list the city would have to present, including how much each lobbyist was paid.

Bills HB 2416 and HB 2095 were also topics of discussion. HB 2095 deals with an amendment to the \$1.5 billion booster allocated to cover part of the KPERS fund. HB 2416 was an amendment that dictates as of January 1, that for anyone employed by the state before 1993, their final salary would not include accrued sickness, vacation or annual leave.

> CONTINUED ON PAGE 7, "LUNCHEON"

FACT OF THE DAY

A cow gives nearly 200,000 glasses of milk in her lifetime

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3-31 **CRYPTOQUIP**

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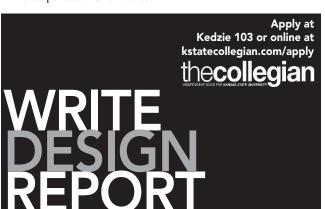
THE BLOTTER

ARREST REPORTS

Sunday, March 29

Megan D Phillips, of the 3200 block of Valleywood Drive, was booked for driving while suspended. Bond was set

Camron Antjuan Turner, of Topeka, was booked for driving while suspended. Bond was set at \$1,000.



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Letters may be rejected if they contain abusive content, lack timeliness, contain vulgarity, profanity or falsehood, promote personal and commercial announcements, repeat comments of letters printed in other issues or contain attachments.

The Collegian does not publish open letters, third-party letters or letters that have been sent to other publications or people.

CORRECTIONS

Due to a Collegian error, the article on Jean Robinson in Monday's edition incorrectly identified the town her family moved to during her junior high years. Her family moved to Hoisington. If you see something that should be corrected or clarified,

call managing editor Som Kandlur at 785-532-6556 or email news@kstatecollegian.com.

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Zits | By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman









DURUM_®

The Fourum is a quirky view of campus life in voices from the K-State community. Positive and humorous comments are selected for publication by the Collegian marketing staff.

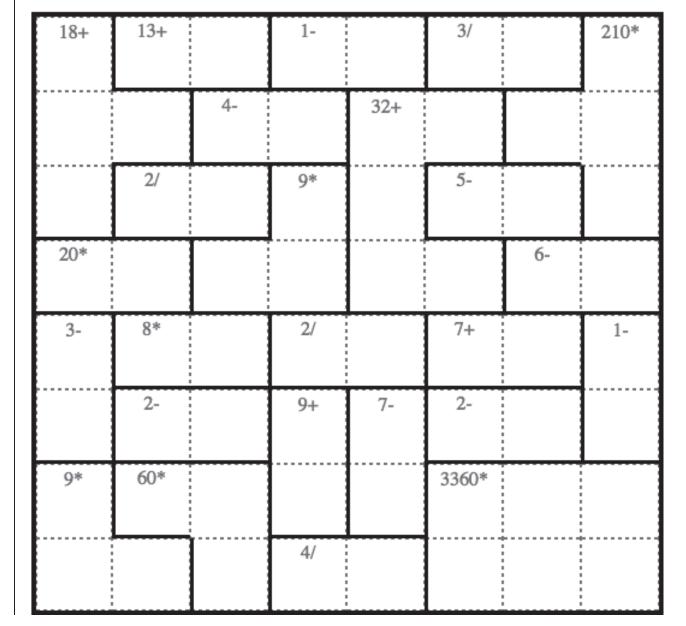
I have to wash the frat off me.

Watched a guy jump across some stairs on a skateboard. Not enough nopes in the world to get me to try

Editor's note: To submit your Fourum contribution, call or text 785-260-0207 or email the four um@kstatecollegian. com. Your e-mail address or phone number is logged but not published.

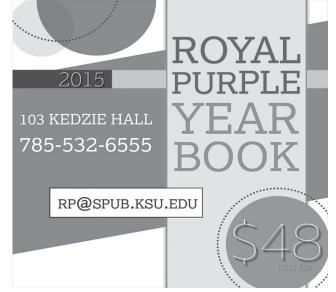
KenKen | Hard

Use numbers 1-8 in each row and column without repeating. The numbers in each outlined area must combine to produce the target number in each area using the mathematical operation indicated.



Gheck out . what's happening at K-State

Office located in Kedzie 116 the collegian





ENSEMBLE | Wind Ensemble previews their Carnegie Hall set



George Walker | the collegian

Alex Wimmer, graduate student in education, taps a tambourine during the Kansas State University Wind Ensemble performance of "First Suite in E-flat for Military Band" during the Carnegie Hall Send-Off Concert in All Faiths Chapel on March 30.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Fifty-seven students will be traveling to New York City to perform and represent K-State. During their time in

"This is such a humbling experience,"

FRANK TRACZ
DIRECTOF OF BANDS, K-STATE

New York some students will be taking private lessons with world-class musicians. The ensemble also gets a chance to perform in Central Park where John Philip Sousa, the march king and founder of modern day band, once played.

"I am most excited for exploring New York City and Broadway, but also playing at Carnegie Hall," Blake Cordell, junior in applied music and member of the wind ensemble, said.

Carnegie Hall acts as the mecca of the music world, according to Tracz. The performance hall is one of the top stages in the world and is said to have the finest acoustics.

"It is nerve-wracking and exciting to be playing on such a huge stage," Conner Penton, senior in music education and

George Walker
THE COLLEGIAN
Members of the Kansas State

Members of the Kansas State University Wind Ensemble perform "Danzón No. 2" member of the wind ensemble, said.

The ensemble has been rehearsing for about four weeks. The students rehearse Monday, Wednesday and Friday for about two hours with extra practices around big events such as this. The students that make up the wind ensemble are very good and fine players who put the time in to play and practice Tracz said

"Mondays' performance acted as a dress rehearsal or 'spring training baseball game," Tracz said. The wind ensemble holds concerts to practice and, in this case, get all the nerves out, make mistakes and see what changes may need to be made.

"This is such a humbling experience," Tracz said.

George Walker | The collegian

RIGHT: **Marcus Grimes,** senior in social sciences, plays the basoon during the Kansas State University Wind Ensemble's performance of "First Suite in E-flat for Military





POLICE BRIEFS

Compiled by Chloe Creager

Attempted robbery reported on campus near West Stadium

A male victim reported an attempted robbery in the D-1 parking lot by West Stadium around 1:45 p.m. Monday. According to K-State Police, the victim was approached by the suspect and demanded his property. The victim was struck by the suspect, who then fled the scene. The victim received only minor injuries during the incident.

The suspect was described as a Hispanic male in his late 20s, 5 feet 8 inches tall, brown hair and wearing khakis and a gray shirt. According to police, the suspect did not use or display a weapon.

Police released a sketch artist's rendition of the suspect and ask anyone with information about the incident to contact them at 785-532-6412.

Riley County Police arrest man for sexual exploitation of a child

John Thomas, 48, of Leonardville, was arrested at approximately 8:15 a.m. Friday morning on a warrant originating from Riley County for three counts of sexual exploitation of a child, according to the Riley County Police Department. Thomas was taken into custody earlier in March by the U.S. Marshals Service in Chino Valley, Arizona and is now being held under arrest by RCPD with a bond of \$500,000. At the time of the original report, Thomas was still confined in Riley County Jail.

Riley County police officers filed a report for motor vehicle theft at approximately 11:20 p.m. Friday at 530 Richards Drive, according to the Riley County Police Department. The victim and owner of the vehicle, Jacob Brazzel, 20, noticed his unsecured 1996 Buick Century was missing from the parking lot. Total loss for items in the car, such as textbooks and a social security card, is estimated at \$1,104. Riley County Police Department is still seeking information about the crime.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Compiled by Chloe Creager

NACADA celebrates 25th anniversary with K-State

According to K-State Today, the National Academic Advising Association: The Global Community for Academic Advising, or NACADA, is celebrating its 25th anniversary of being headquartered at K-State. NACADA established its executive office at K-State in 1990, with the College of Education hosting the institution.

"The College of Education provided the association with a home in

the beginning so the association could support its members through a professional staff that managed the financial growth as well as the coordination of the annual conference," Charlie Nutt, NACADA executive director, said. "It is only through the support of and collaboration with the College of Education that NACADA has been able to not only expand its professional development opportunities for academic advisors across

the globe, but also to support the field of academic advising in its expansion of research and publications focused on the

NACADA is noted for being the first organization to hold a conference on academic advising in the Middle East, and event which took place in 2014. The organization has more than 12,000 members worldwide in a wide range of education-based professions.

K-State animal health leader chosen to lead NBAF stakeholder engagement and partnership

According to K-State Today, Marty Vanier, K-State director of operations at the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center, was chosen by the Department of Homeland Security to take on the role of senior program manager for strategic partnership development.

In this role, Vanier will engage stakeholders in the development of strategic partnerships for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, or NBAF. Groups of stakeholders include government bodies, livestock producer, the

animal health industry and educational

"Dr. Vanier's background will help to catalyze innovation and future planning in support of NBAF by establishing and furthering partnerships with industry, end users and key stakeholders," DHS NBAF director James Johnson said in the news release.

According to the press release, Vanier said she was looking forward to engaging NBAF stakeholders to help create a more secure food supply.

I want to help design new ways for folks in agricultural production to engage in this laboratory effort," Vanier said in the article. "This is an opportunity to bring the end users of the products of the research that will come out of NBAF and allow them to assist in identifying the needs and issues that are important to them. They can be a part of the assessment of the threats and risks to agricultural enterprise in the U.S. and have a real stake in the outcomes of the research in the laboratory."

K-State director to leave the family for Baylor

Gary Mortenson, director of the School of Music, Theatre and Dance, has accepted a paosition at Baylor University as their new dean of the School of Music.

Mortenson has taught at K-State since 1989. In May, he will be awarded the Presidential Award for Outstanding Department Head at the university. Mortenson will take over his new position July 1, according to a Baylor University press release.



PAGE 4

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THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015

Manhattan Town Center Mall A Streeter Family Business...Our Family Serving Yours!

Students, community benefit from shopping locally

By Bevin Landrum OWNER, HERITAGE MARKET-ING ALLIANCE

Remember that line from Jerry Maguire? It's the one where Jerry begs Rod Tidwell (aka Cuba Gooding, Jr.), "Help me, help you." It's an emotional scene as their relationship teeters in the balance. Eventually, Rod figures out what Jerry means and he does help Jerry to help him and his family. Cue the happily ever after scene.

The good news is that life our community can also have a happy ending when people who live local, shop local. It's the ultimate way to help small business owners help us—the community in which we all live and work. In fact, most owners and entrepreneurs do live in your neighborhood, have kids who

committed to the prosperity and vibrancy of the place you all call The numbers are in and

they decidedly show that small

business owners invest in their communities in a generous and diverse pattern of philanthropy. According to Ernst & Young, 62% of small business owners find that giving back to their hometown actually makes their company more successful in the long run. This can be attributed to positive employee attitude from working in a culture of philanthropy or from focusing small ects and causes that tie-in with

the business' industry. It also makes sense to help those who help our small businesses. Help us, help you. Regular patronage at a local to ask for support when your drink it makes Happy Hour truly

ing funds to attend competition. your best shade of red polish in Students who support local businesses make it rewarding to give back to campus organizations. Your regular Friday date night restaurant is going to be much more likely to donate a gift card to your PTA charity auction because they know you support them, too.

Manhattan is large enough to have significant industry, a thriving university and still maintain a small town atmosphere. This impacts local business success because we always have an influx of new potential custombusiness philanthropy on proj- ers and the opportunity to establish relationships with them. Relationship-focused marketing and business strategies are what make shopping local rewarding. Being recognized at the local bike shop is nice. When the resshop can make it much easier taurant staff knows your favorite

stock is perfect for last minute events. You know you can trust these businesses to be there for you—just like you are there for Also, when we chose to

spend our money with local businesses we literally help the lifeblood economic circulation of our town. Money is what sustains a community. In order for it to be robust and healthy, the money has to not only flow out, but also recirculate and ultimately stay in the local system. When people purchase from businesses owned outside the local economy, that money flows out much like a bleeding injury. We don't want that. We want a healthy local economy and that happens when you Think Local. It just makes sense.



For consumers who aren't convinced that shopping local is worth the time and effort, know this: The money you spend locally actually pays off for you. When you shop small, more of your money is reinvested into local schools, jobs, taxes, wages and other communal needs.







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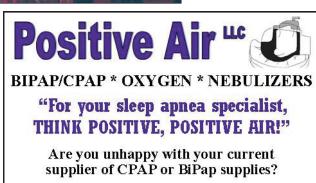
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Out of state, out of mind? Social media helps out of state students cope with long distance relationships

By Abby Kammermeier THE COLLEGIAN

Attending college can mean a student is hundreds of miles away from the place called "home." For some, leaving home to go to college can be one of the hardest things to endure, even if they are only a few hours from home. Out-of-state students do not share this luxury. Getting up and moving to a new place to start a new life takes courage, especially when it is almost impossible to return home whenever a student pleases. With more than 24,300 students from all 50 states and more than 100 countries, the K-State community is stocked full with people from all over the world.

What is the next best thing to seeing your loved ones when students have the inability to go home and see friends whenever they please? The answer is social media. Staying connected to other people is what makes humans human. There are endless amounts of social media outlets to choose from. Connecting to friends and family is easier today than it has ever been, thanks to social media outlets like Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and many more.

Elizabeth Chevalier, a graduate teaching assistant in Spanish who came to K-State from New York, said that phone calls are a more personal way to get in touch with people she cares about. There's not always enough time for that,

"Social media provides a way

time, and allows me to communicate what is happening in my life to all of my friends and family at once, rather than texting or calling each one individually," Chevalier

The only downside to relying on social media to keep in touch with loved ones is the lack of personality it holds versus seeing and talking to people in real life.

Madeline Barber, freshman in communication sciences and disorders, is from Colorado Springs, Colorado. She said it has been an adjustment to not be able to communicate with friends and family

"My favorite social media, however, is Tumblr because some of my very best friends use it and when they blog I know their heart, not just the highlights of their lives they post on Instagram or Facebook," Barber said.

There are many added benefits to using social media to stay in touch. There is not a lot of time commitment that comes with social media use, whereas texting, emailing and phone calling can be time-consuming. Sure, social media may not be as personal as face-to-face interaction, but when you're looking for a quick fix, it Social media is the quick-

est and easiest way for Janelle Feldmann, sophomore in mass communications, to stay in contact with her friends. She came to K-State from Denver, Colorado. Feldmann said that Twitter is her most commonly used social media when trying to stay connected with

An Aug. 23, 2007 Journal of

Computer-Mediated Communication study titled, "The Benefits of Facebook "Friends:" Social Capital and College Students' Use of Online Social Network Sites," sought to determine whether social media

up-to-date with family and friends via social media is important. This method can seem impersonal at times, but it is important to remember that it is OK to use the resources around you to maintain

long-distance relationships with friends and family.

The views and opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position



for us to keep in touch on our own

REAGAN KAYS

@KSTATESBP SBVP

Dear K-Staters,

To kick off this week's column, we're happy to report that the Lifeline 911 bill has passed the Kansas Senate by a strong majority, 34-5. Students across the state have worked together to bring this initiative to the legislature. We're especially grateful to Sens. Garrett Love, Michael O'Donnell, Ralph Ostmeyer, Jacob LaTurner and Tom Hawk for their roles in advocating for this bill and pushing it forward. We're hopeful that it will be voted on and passed by the House of Representatives this week, sending it to Gov. Brownback's desk to be signed into law.

As we near the end of our term, we're optimistic that this student-led effort will culminate in a law protecting underage Kansans from legal prosecution when they seek help in an alcohol-related emergency, and we believe the peace of mind this law will bring will save lives.

This semester, our sustainability

director Caitlyn Webb has spearheaded a new effort to allocate Student Centered Tuition Enhancement funds to campus sustainability initiatives. Director Webb chaired the Green Action Fund Committee, which heard proposals from student groups and campus entities for the use of \$25,000 in funding. These student dollars will be used to install new water bottle filling stations on campus, renovate the "learning farm" used by agronomy students to practice farming techniques, and more. Next year, the committee will allocate around \$40,000 – if you have any ideas for sustainability projects on campus, stay tuned for information on how to apply for funds.

Although it's hard to believe, our term is almost over. The last Student Senate meeting of the term is this Thursday, and our final day in office is April 9. It's been an honor to serve the student body – we're not quite done yet, though, and will work hard until the very end to represent you and advocate for your needs and interests as a student. Keep an eye out for a graphic detailing what we were able to accomplish over our term.

Have a great week, and as always,

Reagan Kays and Cody Kennedy

Student Body President and Vice President

rkays@ksu.edu | ckennedy@ksu.

@KStateSBP_SBVP

Smooth Sailing? The risk behind cruises

By Morgan Mobley THE COLLEGIAN

Many students found themselves on the slopes of a mountain or on the sunny shores of some beach this past spring break. One of the most popular, relaxing escapes from school is taking a cruise. As more people seem to be taking to the seas for a vacation, the danger and fatality rates seem to be going up as well. The question of safety is at the forefront of discussion right now. Is this great escape worth the

Anywhere we go and anything we do will hold somewhat of a risk. I don't necessarily believe that should stop us from living life and doing what we want. When it comes to cruises, the media has over-heightened a few accidents that have made for some rough waters in the cruise industry. Meanwhile, there are still many successful, tremendous ships out there, with people on board making memories. Personally, I would love to join them.

It is no secret that tragic accidents have been making news headlines everywhere recently. Where is cruise fatality risk, though, in comparison to any other method of travel, say flying or driving? According to a Jan. 27, 2012 BBC article titled, "What is the safest

mode of travel?" the odds of dying on a cruise are very low. Only 16 people died in cruise accidents from 2005 to 2011 out of 100 million passengers, according to the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA). That puts the odds of death over that period of time at one in 6.25 million. The article does note that there is no public database on cruise line accidents.

While different incidents in the past couple of years have made this number rise, it is still significantly lower than say, driving a vehicle, which is the most dangerous method of transport, followed by airplanes. Funny how the most common method of travel, the one most of us use every single day, holds the biggest risk, yet is feared the least.

News misconceptions

On Jan. 8, a catamaran carrying dozens of foreign tourists on a pleasure cruise capsized off the coast of Costa Rica, killing three people. According to a New York Daily News article titled, "Three dead after pleasure cruise carrying 109 sinks off Costa Rica," the boat had been properly permitted and the port captain had said it could set sail. Initial reports of an explosion and fire were mistaken, firefighter corps director Hector Chavez said in the article.

It was not the actual cruise itself at the root of the problem, simply poor circumstances. The risk of a situation like this can be found anywhere in any method of transportation; however, headlines focus more on a cruise accident much more than any other type of accident, because they are more

Best trips ever

Cruises can be unforgettable Most great excursions in life hold some sort of potential danger. As a strong advocate for living life to its fullest, I believe fear should not hold people back from making memories. They should simply take steps to be fully prepared and informed, ready for anything that could come their way. According to a NBC News article titled, "Nine tips for cruise safety," there are ways to ensure your safety on a cruise, for example, checking out a ship's report card and keeping your guard up

Book that cruise, sit back and take a deep breath. Kick fear out of your mind and enjoy the ride. As long as you just think safe, it will be smooth sailing for days.

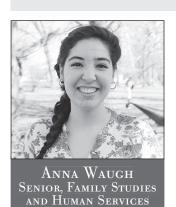
The views and opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of The Collegian.

Morgan Mobley is a sophomore in mass communciations. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.

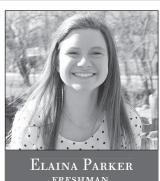


What childhood activity do you wish you could still do

and why?

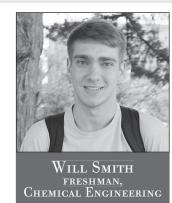


"I wish I could swing more. If there were swing sets around campus that'd be awesome.'

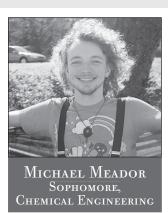


freshman, Elementary Education

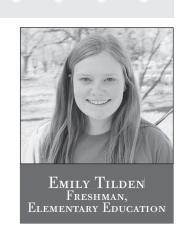
"Playing dress up, but I still do. Last night I put a beard on my face and make úp!"



"I wish I could still throw pottery on the wheel with my dad because he was and art teacher, and I haven't done that in a while."



"Playing superheroes. That's what me and my friends would do a lot. I lot of the stuff you can still do, like swinging or playing video games and just hanging outside, you can do that, but it's weird to look around and act like you're not yourself."



"I guess mine would be trampolines."

ANTI-KID Kids no longer a priority in life

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"College is important for them to attain, but so expensive," Galvan said.

In fact, according to an article published by CNN in August 2014, it costs approximately \$245,000 to raise a child without including the costs of college. Galvan said she believes the more mature choice is waiting to start a family after acquiring an education, and when people are financially prepared

"People are focused on their careers, that is a reason why they decide to have children later in life or not at all," Sonja Schneider, junior in advertising from Oberdorf, Switzerland, said. "Nowadays, people are more focused on their personal goals and they want to get the best from themselves. Children might be interrupting their plans."

She said she stands out from the masses because her career goals will be important to her, but not at the price of missing out on having a family of her own.

LUNCHEON | Officials discuss budget changes, Riley County Health Department recognized

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"This greatly affected some of our senior employees at the city to the point where they said, 'If this gets passed ... we might leave before this gets passed,"" Mangus said.

Mangus said that HB 2416 was removed from HB 2095 but he is unsure if it will be reinstat-

Additionally, the Riley County Health Department was recog-

nized as the healthiest county by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

Fliter ended the meeting by explaining the state's provisions to reverse the current formula for distributing financial aid.

"Currently now, it's about 80 percent of the aid goes to public college students, students at public colleges, and 20 (percent) goes to private, and (the state) would like to flip that," Fliter

Cassandra Nguyen | the collegian

Leah Fliter, president of Manhattan-Ogden USD 383 Board of Education, leads the discussion of the state's school finance plan at the Intergovernmental Luncheon on March 30 in the Landon room of the Holiday Inn in Manhattan. Attendees of the luncheon were present to discuss state and federal legislative issues for 2015.



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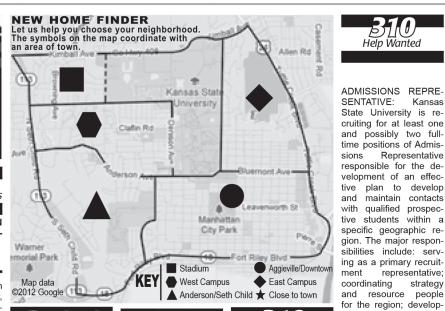
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Do not be quick to dehumanize players

MEN'S BASKETBALL



Tate Steinlage the collegian

Over spring break, I had the opportunity to venture out west to Las Vegas, Nevada, or Sin City as some know it. You know, what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas. Three of my close friends and I spent a week roaming the Vegas strip, checking out various casinos and local hot spots.

However, being March Madness, much of our time was spent hunkered down in the corner of our casino at one of over 60 Vegas sports books. There, amid the clouds of smoke spewing out from the cigarettes of onlookers, dozens of mostly middle-aged men clung to the hope of college

sations around me, I looked down at my own ticket stub. I (foolishly) put down \$5 for New Mexico State to upset Kansas. Behind that was another ticket stub. This one, a parlay where I needed all three teams to win to turn \$5

Side note: I won nothing. Sports book atmospheres are unique, and not necessarily in a good way. I'd argue the maturity is on par with your local Chuck E. Cheese, only instead of coins, these "kids" are betting away all they have. Now, that is a generalization. Some are there just for a good time, to enjoy a drink with their buddies and catch some games. But that's not the majority, unfortunately.

Each day, our sports book was packed. During TV timeouts, grown men would stand on their chairs and literally begin chants to change the channel. When a player missed a shot, expletives (we can't print those, sorry) were shouted at players without hesitation. And who could forget the backseat coaching, as if Tom Izzo didn't already know what he was doing.



PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN

Sophomore guard Marcus Foster shouts emphatically after forcing an Oklahoma State turnover near the beginning of the second half of the Wildcats 63-53 defeat of the Cowboys Jan. 24, in Bramlage Coliseum

Freshman guard Tre Harris defends against Texas guard Kendal Yancy in the first half of the Wildcats' 57-61 defeat at the hand of the Longhorns Feb. 7 in Bramlage Coliseum. In the absence of sophomore guard Marcus Foster and freshman forward Malek Harris, Tre Harris played a career high-tying 25 minutes and contributed 12 points, including a 4-of-4 string of three-pointers to erase an 11-point deficit in the first half.

kids and their basketball abilities.

"I've cashed in a few thousand today," proclaimed one burly man, who clearly enjoyed his winnings, evident by the multiple cocktails surrounding his table.

"Damn you!" shouted another man. "I'm down...way down."

Listening to the conver-

thecollegian

Now, if you read the title of this column, you're probably wondering what this has to do with former K-State basketball players Marcus Foster and Tre Harris. Some of you may already know where this is going. Just as those in the sports book were quick to dehumanize players because of money hanging in the balance, we should not be quick to

dehumanize Foster or Harris because of their mistakes. In fact, we shouldn't do it at all.

It's been a week since K-State Sports announced that Foster and Harris were dismissed from the program for not living up to its standards. A specific reason for their dismissal was not given, but a tweet — since deleted — sent out by Foster over spring break points to what proved to be the

1400 Beechwood

Terrace

final straw.

"It is a privilege to represent Kansas State University and there are consequences when players don't live up to those expectations," K-State head coach Bruce Weber said in the press release.

Foster and Harris messed up. This is clear. For Foster, it wasn't the first time either. In February, he was suspended three games, and throughout the season there appeared to be growing disconnect between the star sophomore guard and the rest of the team.

"About time they canned them!" one commenter said on the K-State Collegian Facebook page. "Follow the rules or get out of Manhattan!"

"He may have been great, but if he didn't follow the team rules or represent the university or Big 12 in a good way it's probably for the best," another commenter said.

Foster and Harris' suspension was just. There are second chances, but there are also rules to follow. The two chose to go about their own rules, and thus there are consequenc-

But we as a society are quick to forget that these aren't just basketball players. These are real people. College students, mind you. Some would like to think they're above Foster and Harris, but we've all made mistakes - some of which, too, would get us kicked off a team.

The point is that underneath the basketball part of it all is a real person, or people in this case, who are obviously struggling and need guidance.

Basketball isn't the end all

be all, and it never should be. Rick Barnes, the former coach of Texas who parted ways with his longtime program over the weekend, said it best in a state-

ment following his departure. "I leave this job with no regrets," Barnes wrote. "Instead, I look back at our time here and say 'thank you' to all the players, coaches and staff who have worked with our program throughout the last 17 years. I am so proud of our players and their success, not only on the court, but also in the classroom and in the community. I'm humbled when I really step back and think about how many of them have gone on to be such great all-around men in life."

Basketball is a platform in life, not life itself. There are consequences for breaking the rules, but more so, there should be the hope that Foster and Harris (and all players in their shoes) can find their footing, turn things around and succeed in life on and off the

The views and opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of The Collegian.

Tate Steinlage is a junior in mass communications. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.

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